



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD SEX CHARGES

West Virginia resident faces up to 20 years imprisonment

CHARLESTOWN, W.Va. – James Kilpatrick, Resident Agent-in-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Kasey Warner, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia, announced today that a local college teacher pleaded guilty to child pornography charges.

Bernard E. Raby, 40, pleaded guilty to receipt of child pornography and is scheduled to be sentenced July 22.

Raby faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Raby was arrested Dec. 15, after ICE agents executed a federal search warrant at his residence in Boone County. At the time of the search, Raby was employed as a teacher at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College. Forensic analysis of his computer revealed that Raby had downloaded numerous images depicting young boys engaged in sexually-explicit conduct. During an interview with agents, Raby admitted to trading and collecting images of child pornography.

Officers from the West Virginia State Police and Charleston Police Department assisted ICE in the investigation.

The enforcement action was part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and human traffickers. More than 5,400 individuals have been arrested nationwide as part of Operation Predator, including 4 in West Virginia.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or www.cybertipline.com.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.